

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
October 27, 2014

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Raymond moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, replied to comments made by Deputy Mayor Shapiro regarding information Mr. Coleman submitted to the Council concerning the rental ordinance. (Statement attached, submitted materials to be included as a communication in the November 10, 2014 packet)

Noreen Pease, Manager of Wood's Edge Apartments, clarified that the warrants were not given to them before the inspections. Once the tenants were willing to have a re-inspection the housing officials did not enter the apartments because the tenants were not home. They did however look in the windows. Ms. Pease suggested the right of entry form be used and be sent to the tenants and not to management.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, spoke to Item 8, Report from Ad hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting, he supports the disbanding of the Committee, recommends the time for violation reporting be limited, and suggested that the issue be referred back to the ordinance review committee.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, offered support for the purchase of the proposed used ambulance. Mr. Hossack commented on the brochures in support of the referendum vote sent out by the Friends of Four Corners Improvement. Mr. Hossack stated that the Council pulled out all the stops on the brochures. He identified those who will benefit from the project and urged citizens to vote no.

Jeffrey Viens, Columbia, questioned why the Council does not begin the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and asked if Council members believe in the country.

John Walker, Sawmill Brook Lane, would like to see a compilation of housing code violations and offered some suggested changes to the Housing Code Ordinance.

Pat Suprenant, Mansfield Independent News, ask the Council to respond to information discussed at the UConn Town Hall meeting on October 14, 2014 regarding the building of an ice rink at the corner of Rte.195 and Rte. 275 and asked if the Council will be fighting for additional positions on the UConn Master Plan Advisory Committee. The ice rink project is not currently funded. Ms. Suprenant also asked about a rumor concerning a land exchange between UConn and the Town which would swap the Region 19 and Town Hall land for land on Rte. 44.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, submitted a list of new and old questions. (Statement attached, submitted materials to be included as a communication in the November 10, 2014 packet.)

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written comments Town Manager Matt Hart offered the following comments:

- Mr. Hart reviewed the interest rate on delinquent taxes which is determined by statute. Council members proposed that we ask the Town's legislators, COST and CCM to look at these rates.
- UConn will present an informational session on the draft UConn Master Plan on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Mr. Hart urged

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Council members to attend the meeting and explained the role of the UConn Master Plan Advisory Committee on which he and the Director of Planning serve. Mr. Hart stated that there will be ample opportunity for public comment on the draft UConn Master Plan. Council members expressed the desire to have more input into the Plan.

- A draft copy of Mansfield Tomorrow, Plan of Conservation and Development, has been distributed to each Councilor. Sessions will be scheduled to discuss the draft.
- In response to comments made during the public comment session, Mr. Hart suggested the Council discuss its expectations regarding the answering of questions raised by the public. The current Town Council Rules of Procedures do not address the issue in detail and do not require staff to address each question.

Ms. Wassmundt questioned the best way for residents to address a noisy party especially on the weekends. Mr. Hart stated that residents need to contact Troop C who in turn will contact the local troopers.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Moran objected to the public using the opportunity to address the Council to speak to the public as a whole. Ms. Moran also responded to an earlier comment by Mr. Hossack noting that she was the only one who had prior knowledge of and provided some assistance in the development of the mentioned brochures. She did not have final control, or editorial input and all the information provided was public. Ms. Moran commented that certain members of the public continually misuse their opportunity to comment by exceeding the five minute limit and suggested the Council look at enforcement mechanisms.

Ms. Wassmundt and Ms. Raymond called Ms. Moran's comments an endorsement of the Four Corners Sewer Project and questioned whether that was a violation of statutes. Ms. Moran stated that as an individual she is allowed to speak and endorse.

Mr. Shapiro remarked that as a public official he knew that he would be criticized as he was earlier this evening by Mr. Smith.

Ms., Raymond raised a point of order stating the Council's Points of Procedures prohibit the calling out of persons who address the Council in public session. Ms. Raymond feels it has a chilling effect on democracy.

Mr. Shapiro stated there is not a rule of the Council as described by Ms. Raymond. Rule 5 prohibits everyone from discussing personalities and impugning the motives, character or integrity of any individual. Mr. Shapiro stated that he had barely begun his comments before Ms. Raymond raised her point of order and had no intention of impugning anyone's motive character or integrity.

Mayor Paterson overruled the point of order, stating that Mr. Shapiro was responding to comments.

Mr. Shapiro continued his remarks and described the process he uses in his job as a member of the Council and they are to listen, read and investigate.

Mr. Kochenburger responded to remarks made earlier and rejected the idea that the only way to show respect is the rote recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council does have programs four times a year at which the Pledge of Allegiance is recited but within a larger context of the history of the country. Mr. Kochenburger noted that participation in public service of any kind show respect for the country and its citizens.

Ms. Wassmundt suggested the Deputy Mayor review the videos of his comments of this meeting and of the last meeting to see the difference in tone. Ms. Wassmundt asked that the Council have a discussion about the Town Council Rules of Procedures and Roberts Rules of Order and review how the housing inspection process is carried out. Ms. Wassmundt suggested the Council review the subcommittee structure and set up an ad

hoc committee to explore the elimination of subcommittees and also asked that motions not be all encompassing.

Mayor Paterson reminded everyone of the Super Hero Run Walk Event and Community Meal on November 1, 2014 to benefit the Fisher Family Fund. Contact the Southeast PTO for additional information

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded that Item 6, Presentation on October 1, 2014 Revaluation, be considered immediately. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to move Item 5, Eastern Highland Health District Ebola Preparedness Update, as the next item of business. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Mr. Hart updated the Council on the CWC water diversion permit process and explained one of the proposed permit conditions to prevent growth and sprawl along the interconnection line. Staff has been working with CWC and UConn to identify how this condition would be implemented. Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter remarked that the condition is specifically tied to the Plan of Conservation and Development's stated intensity of use, not current Zoning Regulations.

2. Storrs Center Update

The Mayor, Director of Planning and Development, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Director and Town Manager participated in the National Town Builders Association Conference held in Mansfield last weekend. Mayor Paterson reported conference participants toured the Storrs Center area and were favorably impressed with the results.

3. Proposed Additional Appropriations

Chief Dagon was available to present the options and answer questions regarding a replacement ambulance.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective October 27, 2014, to increase the FY2014/15 General Fund Transfer to Capital/CNR by \$50,000 to be funded by the additional State payment in lieu of taxes grant.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective October 27, 2014, to amend the Capital Non-recurring Fund and the Capital Improvement Program Fund budgets to fund a replacement for Ambulance 607 in the amount of \$107,000.

Motions passed unanimously.

4. New Local Option Property Tax Exemptions

By consensus the Council asked the Town Manager to prepare language for the review of a municipal option to provide an additional property tax exemption for one hundred percent disabled veterans.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Eastern Highlands Health District Ebola Preparedness Update

Eastern Highland Health Director Rob Miller provided a brief overview of the local and state Ebola preparedness efforts and described the role of the local public health agency in the enforcement of any quarantine ordered by the State.

6. Presentation on October 1, 2014 Revaluation

Assessor Irene LaPointe and Vision Government Solution Manager June Perry presented an overview of the revaluation process. The Assessor will update the Council once the final figures have been determined.

7. Mansfield Community Center Fees

Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente highlighted a few of the proposed changes and was available to answer questions.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, to approve the Community Center Fee Recommendations for the operating year beginning November 1, 2014 and ending October 31, 2015, as presented by staff in its draft dated October 27, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously.

Staff will provide and update on the effect of the changes made to the fee waiver program.

8. Report from Ad hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee moved to accept the report of the Ad hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting and to disband the committee as of October 27, 2014.

Ms. Moran provided a summation of the Committee's efforts and results. No changes to the relevant ordinances are being recommended, but changes to the administrative procurement process are included in the report. With regards to the question of placing a time limit on violations, it was agreed that management would use their discretion.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Impact Analysis of Next Generation Connecticut Initiative

A preferred consultant has been selected. The funding agreement will be brought to the Council at a future meeting.

10. Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield's Veterans

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective October 27, 2014, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield's Veterans.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. Veterans Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee

Ms. Moran, Ms. Raymond (Chair) and Mr. Kochenburger agreed to serve as subcommittee members for the November 10, 2014 ceremonial presentation.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments offered

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Marcellino reported on the last meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee during which bikeways were discussed.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. W. Bigl (10/23/14)

13. J. Friedman (10/13/14)

14. J. McGarry (10/14/14)

15. M. Hart re: Appointment to Mansfield Conservation Commission

16. M. Dawley re: Children's Hike

17. Tennett Tree Service, Inc. re: Pruning and Removing Trees 1

18. Draft CRCOG 2015 Legislative Agenda 1

19. Eastern Highlands Health District 2013-2014 Annual Report

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Ryan requested an update on the hydroelectric proposal from the Shifrins.

Ms. Wassmundt requested a review of the Housing Code and its implementation.

The Town Manager will provide a presentation on the rental certification section of the Housing Code including violation statistics and fees.

Mr. Kochenburger requested a report from the police or zoning enforcement officer on the effectiveness of the Nuisance Ordinance in areas of Town other than Hunting Lodge Road.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to add an executive session regarding the sale and purchase of real estate as provided for in CGS§1-200(6)(D). The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro recused himself from participation in the executive session as explained in a written statement previously provided to the Ethics Board, the Town Manager and the Town Clerk.

Mr. Ryan moved to go into executive session to discuss the sale and purchase of real estate. Seconded by Ms. Moran the motion passed.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale and purchase of real estate as provided for in CGS§1-200(6) (D).

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Wassmundt

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart and Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman

XIV ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Marcellino seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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